

(Washington, DC)- Congresswoman Gwen Moore obtained \$1 million in naval research and development funds for Astronautics Corporation in the House Defense Appropriations bill passed by the Appropriations Defense Subcommittee today. Astronautics Corporation, located in Milwaukee, is a world leader in the design, development, and manufacture of commercial and military electronics for air, space, land and sea applications.

Moore requested this funding of Chairman C. W. Bill Young and Ranking Member John Murtha of the Defense Subcommittee earlier this year. If passed into law, the award will help Astronautics advance its groundbreaking work to develop a new, smaller, more efficient generation of refrigeration based on the use of rotary permanent magnets. This new cooling method is crucial in order to accommodate the increasing use of electronic systems in naval vessels.

"With its critical uses in oceangoing vessels and beyond, Astronautics' cutting-edge research in this field has the potential down the road to yield a return of many new jobs for us here in Milwaukee," Moore said. "I am hopeful that this funding, if passed into law, may help fully develop this revolutionary technology right here in southeastern Wisconsin."

As the most recent classes of naval ships become increasingly dependent on electric and electronic systems, the need to increase the capacity of shipboard cooling systems grows. Magnetic refrigeration is a cooling technology that offers significant potential for high-energy efficiency, low weight, compact size, and reduced maintenance-all of which are constant concerns when designing new naval vessels.

Astronautics Corporation, which has invested in this technology since 1985, demonstrated the first successful rotary permanent-magnet based refrigerator in 2000. The company will use the requested funding to continue applied research for the design, fabrication, testing, and delivery of its high-efficiency magnetic cooling system.

The Defense Appropriations bill will next be debated by the full House Appropriations Committee before being sent to the House floor for consideration. Later this year, several members of the House and Senate will meet in a conference committee to work out a final compromise version of the bill that can be signed into law.

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